(b) and (c) CSI will be introduced as a pilot project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai after finalization of the terms and conditions of the programme.

Container Security Initiatives

1752. DR. K: MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the U.S. and many countries of the world have introduced Container Security Initiative in ports to avoid delay for exports besides facilitating fast movements of Containers, reducing bottlenecks, increasing space availability, etc.;

(b) what is the reaction of Government in introducing this modern facility;

(c) what is the present stage of action on this; and

(d) whether there is any joint venture in the offing?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) At present 50 seaports in the world are participating in the Container Security Initiative (CSI) programme. These ports account for approximately 82% of all containerised merchandise imported into US. CSI will be introduced as pilot project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mumbai after finalization of the terms and conditions of the programme.

CBI Raids at NHAI's official residences

1753. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has conducted searches at the residential and official premises of the officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for alleged cheating, forgery and abuse of official position for sub-standard works between Panipat and Sonepat stretch of the National Highway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stringent steps taken by Government to curb such misuse and corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had conducted searches at the residential and official premises of some officials of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in connection with contract for maintenance of National Highways from km 66 to 95 on National Highway No.-1. The details have not been received from the CBI.

To curb misuse and corruption, steps are taken as per Central Vigilance Commission Manual/Guidelines and Regulations of the NHAI.

Slow progress of the construction work on NH-57

†1754. SHRI MANGANl LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction work of NH-57 has been started partially but at very slow pace in Bihar on the East-West National Highway (Corridor) under the National Highways Development Project;

(b) whether it is a fact that the construction work on the bridges to be constructed on Kosi river, Bhutahi Balan river and Kamala river on NH-57 has not started so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by when completion of construction work of four/six laning of NH-57 alongwith the bridges has been targeted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The construction of 4-laning work in Muzaffarpur-Purnea Section of NH-57 (Except Kosi Bridge in km. 155 to km 165.00) which forms part of East West Corridor under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), Phase-ll has already been started after mobilization of required resources by the contractors for their respective packages. In the beginning, pace of work was slow, as the contractors were facing difficulties in mobilizing their resources.

(b) and (c) The construction of Kosi Bridge including approaches, guide bunds/afflux bunds, etc, is targeted to start by April 2007. Four laning

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.